

Mr. A. Thomson exhibited a living specimen of the larval form of a Stick-insect from Southern France (*Empusa egena*), from the Society's Insect-house, and spoke of its manner of catching flies.

The following papers were read:—

1. Third Contribution to the Herpetology of the Solomon Islands¹. By G. A. BOULENGER, F.Z.S.

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Mr. C. M. Woodford has brought home a large series of Reptiles and Batrachians obtained during his visit to the Islands of Guadalcanar and New Georgia. The fact that, in spite of the extent of the collection (over 200 specimens) and the special attention paid by the collector to this group of animals, only four species are thereby added to the herpetological list of the Solomons, shows that our knowledge of this part of the fauna approaches completion. *Dendrophis calligaster*, Gthr., and *Cornufer corrugatus*, A. Dum., are recorded for the first time from the Solomon Islands, and two new snakes are described further on.

The following is a list of the species obtained:—

Guadalcanar:—*Crocodylus porosus*, Schn., *Gehyra oceanica*, Less., *Varanus indicus*, Daud., *Lygosoma cyanurum*, Less., *L. nigrum*, H. & J., *L. albofasciatum*, Gthr., *Corucia zebata*², Gray, *Enygrus carinatus*, Schn., *Dendrophis calligaster*, Gthr., *Dipsas irregularis*, Merr., *Hoplocephalus melanurus*, sp. n., *Rana guppyi*, Blgr.³, *R. krefftii*, Blgr., *Cornufer solomonis*, Blgr., *C. corrugatus*, A. Dum., *Ceratobatrachus guentheri*, Blgr., and *Hyla macrops*, Blgr.

Rubiana, New Georgia:—*Lygosoma cyanurum*, Less., *L. cyanogaster*, Less., *L. nigrum*, H. & J., *Enygrus carinatus*, Schn., *Dendrophis solomonis*, Gthr. (a variety with uniform green upper parts), *Dipsas irregularis*, Merr., *Hoplocephalus woodfordi*, sp. n., *Rana guppyi*, Blgr., *Cornufer corrugatus*, A. Dum., and *Ceratobatrachus guentheri*, Blgr.

HOPLOCEPHALUS MELANURUS, sp. n.

Body rather stout. Head depressed, slightly widened posteriorly; snout short, without canthus rostralis; eye moderate; no superciliary ridge; rostral considerably broader than deep, its upper border forming a very open angle; internasals half as long as the præfrontals, which are a little shorter than the frontal; latter shield

¹ P. Z. S. 1887, p. 333.

² Mr. Woodford confirms from actual observation the statement made by me that the tail is a prehensile organ. This Lizard was seen to suspend itself to branches of trees by means of the tail.

³ The largest female specimen measures 21 centim., from snout to vent, the largest male only 10; the male is characterized by the presence of a small external vocal sac on each side of the throat. These frogs feed chiefly upon large crustaceans (*Sesarma lafordii* and *Cardiosoma carnifex*, fide Pocock).

pentagonal, only a little longer than broad, and broader than the supraocular; parietals as long as the præfrontals and frontal together; nasal forming a short suture with the præocular; two postoculars, lower largest; seven upper labials, third and fourth entering the eye, first smallest, sixth largest; seven lower labials, four in contact with the chin-shields, fourth and sixth largest; one temporal in the first row, two in the second, three in the third. Scales in 15 or 17 rows; ventrals 165 to 171; anal divided; subcaudals single, 38 to 48. Upper surface of tail with a more or less complete series of transversely enlarged scales. Head and sides usually reddish, dorsal region dark brown; some or all of the scales with a black border; tail black; some specimens nearly entirely black, others with traces of black transverse bands; ventrals yellow, on the hind part of the body with dark brown or black margin.

Numerous specimens; the largest measures one metre, in which the tail enters for 14 centim.

HOPLOCEPHALUS WOODFORDI, sp. n.

This species agrees in every respect with the preceding, save that the scales are somewhat longer, and the subcaudals (with the exception of the first and third) double. Scales 17; ventrals 166; anal divided; subcaudals 45. Head dark brown; body brownish white, each scale with a blackish-brown border, forming a reticulate pattern; lower parts white, subcaudals with dark brown border. Total length 67 centim., in which the tail enters for 10. A single specimen.

Considering that this species, in spite of its divided subcaudals, is extremely closely allied to the preceding, as well as to *H. par*¹ and *Pseudechis porphyriaca*, I have not the slightest hesitation in referring it to the genus *Hoplocephalus*. It is clear to me that, in these elapoid forms, the character of divided or single subcaudals cannot be employed in defining genera, not more than in the genus *Bothrops*. Nor can I regard the division or non-division of the anal as a generic character.

A complete list of the Reptiles and Batrachians of the Solomon Group is appended to this note, with a table showing their distribution in the various islands which have been explored, their presence being indicated by a*. An asterisk prefixed to the name, signifies that a species is, according to present information, restricted to this group of islands. The table well shows the considerable difference between the fauna of the two extreme islands, viz. Faro and San Christoval, the former exhibiting, chiefly in the abundance and variety of Batrachian life, a more Papuasian, the latter a more Polynesian character.

¹ The statement in my description (Tr. Z. S. xii. p. 46), that the subcaudals are in pairs, is a lapsus; they are all simple.

	Faro.	Shortland.	Treasury.	N. Georgia.	Guadalcanar.	S. Christoval and neighbouring small Islands.
REPTILIA.						
CROCODILIA.						
1. <i>Crocodylus porosus</i> , <i>Schn.</i>	*	...	*	*	*
LACERTILIA.						
2. <i>Gymnodactylus pelagicus</i> , <i>Gir.</i>	*	*				
3. <i>Gehyra oceanica</i> , <i>Less.</i>	*	*	*	
*4. <i>Lepidodaetylus guppyi</i> , <i>Blgr.</i>	*					
*5. — <i>woodfordi</i> , <i>Blgr.</i>	*					
6. <i>Gecko vittatus</i> , <i>Houtt.</i>	*	*
7. <i>Gonyocephalus godeffroyi</i> , <i>Ptrs.</i>	*	*
8. <i>Varanus indicus</i> , <i>Daud.</i>	*	*	*	*
*9. <i>Corucia zebrata</i> , <i>Gray.</i>	*	*	*
*10. <i>Lygosoma solomonis</i> , <i>Blgr.</i>	*					
*11. — <i>woodfordi</i> , <i>Blgr.</i>	*					
*12. — <i>concinatum</i> , <i>Blgr.</i>	*					
13. — <i>smaragdinum</i> , <i>Less.</i>	*	...	*			
*14. — <i>anolis</i> , <i>Blgr.</i>	*	*	*
15. — <i>cyanurum</i> , <i>Less.</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*
16. — <i>cyanogaster</i> , <i>Less.</i>	*	...	*	*	...	*
17. — <i>nigrum</i> , <i>H. & J.</i>	*	...	*	*	*	*
18. — <i>albofasciolatum</i> , <i>Gthr.</i>	*	*	*
OPHIDIA.						
*19. <i>Typhlops aluensis</i> , <i>Blgr.</i>	*				
20. <i>Enygrus carinatus</i> , <i>Schn.</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*
21. — <i>bibronii</i> , <i>H. & J.</i>	*
22. <i>Dendrophis calligaster</i> , <i>Gthr.</i>	*	
23. — <i>solomonis</i> , <i>Gthr.</i>	*	...	*	...	*
24. <i>Dipsas irregularis</i> , <i>Merr.</i>	*	*	*	*	*	
*25. <i>Hoplocephalus par</i> , <i>Blgr.</i>	*					
*26. — <i>melanurus</i> , <i>Blgr.</i>	*	
*27. — <i>woodfordi</i> , <i>Blgr.</i>	*		
28. <i>Platurus fasciatus</i> , <i>Daud.</i>						
BATRACHIA.						
*1. <i>Rana bufoniformis</i> , <i>Blgr.</i>	*	...	*			
*2. — <i>guppyi</i> , <i>Blgr.</i>	*	*	...	*	*	
*3. — <i>opisthodon</i> , <i>Blgr.</i>	*	*				
*4. — <i>krefftii</i> , <i>Blgr.</i>		*
5. <i>Cornufer dorsalis</i> , <i>A. Dum.</i>	*					
*6. — <i>guppyi</i> , <i>Blgr.</i>	*	...	*			
7. — <i>corrugatus</i> , <i>A. Dum.</i>	*	*	
*8. — <i>solomonis</i> , <i>Blgr.</i>	*	*	*	...	*	
*9. <i>Batrachylodes vertebralis</i> , <i>Blgr.</i>	*					
*10. <i>Ceratobatrachus guentheri</i> , <i>Blgr.</i>	*	*	*	*	*	
*11. <i>Hyla lutea</i> , <i>Blgr.</i>	*					
*12. — <i>macrops</i> , <i>Blgr.</i>	*	...	*	
*13. — <i>thesaurensis</i> , <i>Ptrs.</i>	*			